

FISH AND GAME COMMISSION MEETING

Public Hearing 7:00 p.m. Wed., July 9, 2003

Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge, Bonners Ferry, ID

Commissioners Hadley, Irby, Watts, Wood, Gibbs, Wheeler, Burns, attending.

Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Irby.

1. Jim Hagedorn, Viola, Concerned Sportsmen of Idaho, welcomes Commissioner Wheeler, thank you for holding these public meetings around the state. CSI is interested in being involved in the development of the whitetail management plan. Concerned about increase in wolf packs and their impact on game. Delivers a letter from a Montana outfitter concerned about eastern management of western resources.
2. ? Kirby, Mayor of Bonners Ferry, welcome to our town. Most people in this area are aware of resource issues. Compliments Nancy Hadley for her involvement in the community and knowledge of the issues of the area.
3. Vincent Aguirre, Priest Lake. Priest Lake is an entirely different area, bordering Washington and Canada. Deer come down the drainages to winter at Priest Lake, so do cougars. Season closes earlier than any other area of the state, and it is proposed to close it earlier, on March 15. Wants a special season for his area that would run to March 31. Thinks Commissioner Hadley should propose longer mountain lion seasons. Wants more harvest because no matter how many you kill, more will come in.
4. John Meadows, Kootenai Valley Sptsmsns. Assoc. on Access Yes, critical that landowners would have control of who goes on property. Thinks lands currently open to hunters may close if owners don't get selected and paid. Concerned that sale of lottery tags will not fund the program. Just can't see it working. The north of the state was not involved until way late. Buying an easement would be a better way to get access. Would like to see the term of licenses run Apr. 1-Mar.31 rather than Jan 1 – Dec. 31.
5. Jack Hammett, would like to see youth hunts in Panhandle. Takes several boys each year and would like to do it closer to home.

Adjourn 7:31 PDT

Nancy Hadley comments on agenda items and asks Mark Taylor to explain the project to build an education facility at Sandpoint Hatchery, which is a community effort. It was purchased by local sportsman group in 1908 and given to the department to manage, but the water is too cold to raise fish very efficiently.